

### **Altadena water**

Mr. Clarke's comment about JPL's alleged abuse of Lincoln Avenue Water (Nov. 4) needs a response. I have personally quizzed the principals in the cleanup discussion from JPL, Pasadena Water & Power, Foothill Municipal Water District and Lincoln. In independent conversations, all but Lincoln agree that the reason Lincoln was not included in the cleanup plant is that Lincoln dropped out of the negotiations. Either the conspiracy against Lincoln is well coordinated or Lincoln chose to take a unique view. I hope the Star-News will check this out.

All Lincoln needed to do was sit on the coat tails of Pasadena and perhaps pay a fair proportion of the costs. Lincoln collapsed under that mild pressure and quit the negotiations. If that seems fantastic, consider that the company president at that time, Robert Horner, refused to even face the shareholders the last annual meeting, but was re-elected in absentia through manipulation of votes from vested interests and lenders. The issue is Lincoln's competence, not JPL's abuse of the community.

This company has a history of refusing to deal squarely with the issues. It prefers to shift blame and work around the real issues by doing whatever is most comfortable to the old boys in charge and pass the costs on to consumers, as Clarke phrased it. Perhaps that is the key. Lincoln says it is owned by its shareholders. Instead it is operated as an old-boy support group.

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